Ancient

The Presocratics

The Milesians
        Thales
        Anaximander
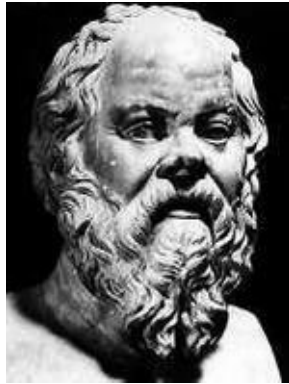   Anaximenes

Heraclitus

The Eleatic School
        Parmenides
        Zeno
        Melissus
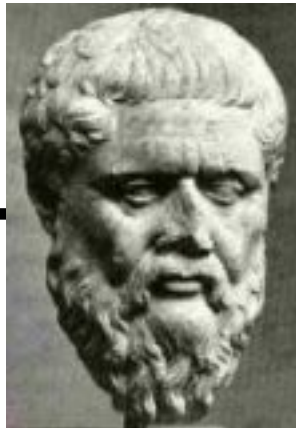
Qualitative Pluralists
        Empedocles
        Anaxagoras
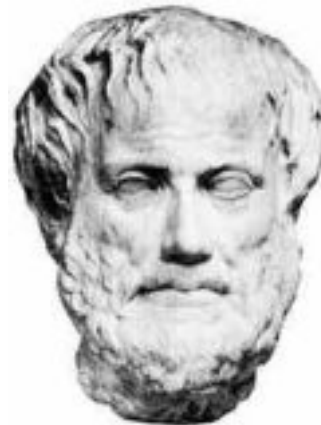
Socrates (470-399 BCE)

The Antikythera Mechanism, a sophisticated astronomical computer, is built in approximately 79 CE

The Hellenistic Schools

The Epicureans

The Stoics

The Skeptics

Atomists
        Leucippus
        Democritus

Pythagoras

The Sophists
        Protagoras
        Gorgias
        Antiphon

Plato (428-348 BCE)

The Romans

Cicero (106-43 BC)

Lucretius (94-55 BC)

Seneca (4 BC - 65 AD)

Plutarch (45-120 AD)

Epictetus (55-135 AD)

Marcus Aurelius (121-180 AD)

The Metaphysical Turn
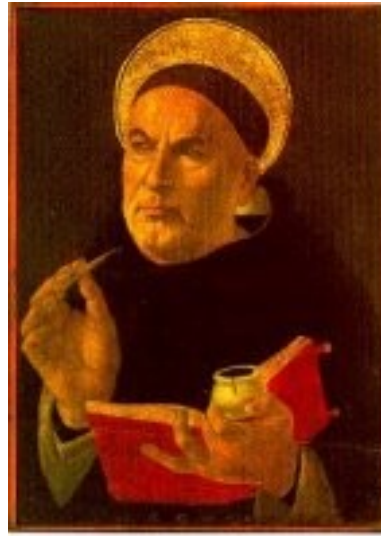"What is the fundamental nature of reality?"

Aristotle (384-322 BCE)

The Chinese develop the bead-and-wire abacus approximately 1300 CE

Aquinas (1225-1274)

Duns Scotus (1265-1308)

Augustine (354-430)

Boethius (c. 480–524/525)

William of Ockham (c. 1287–1347)

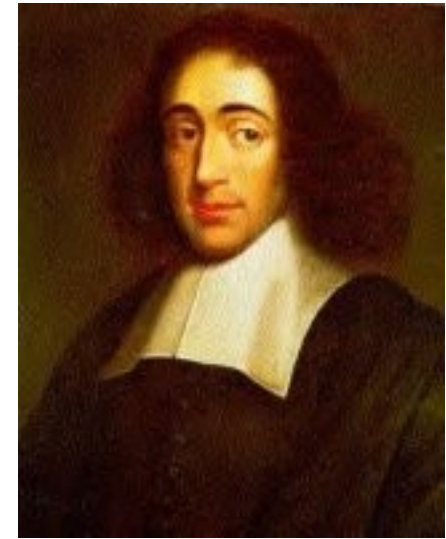Anselm (1033-1109)

Three Vexing Questions

1. Are the Divine Attributes compatible?

2. How is evil possible given the Divine Attributes?

3. How is freedom of the will compatible with Divine Foreknowledge?

Pascal constructs a gear-driven adding machine, the "Pascalene", in 1642.

Descartes (1596-1650)

Spinoza (1632-1677)

Hobbes (1588-1679)

Pascal (1623-1662)

The Epistemic Turn
"What can we *know* about the fundamental nature of reality?"

Modern

Leibnitz (1646-1716)

Berkeley (1685-1753)

Mathematician and Engineer Charles Babbage designs and partly builds the Difference Engine. Work ceased in 1834. By 1835 Babbage had designed the Analytical Engine, a primitive programmable computer which he never built.
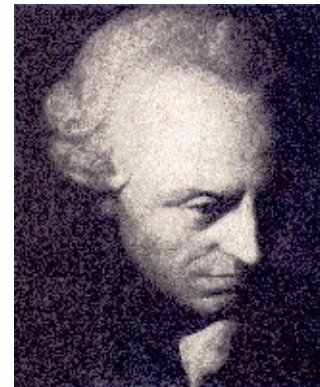

Babbage (1791-1871)

Hume (1711-1776)

Locke (1632-1704)

Leibnitz constructs a mechanical calculator, the "Stepped Reckoner", in 1674.
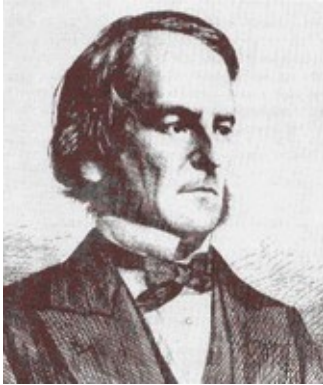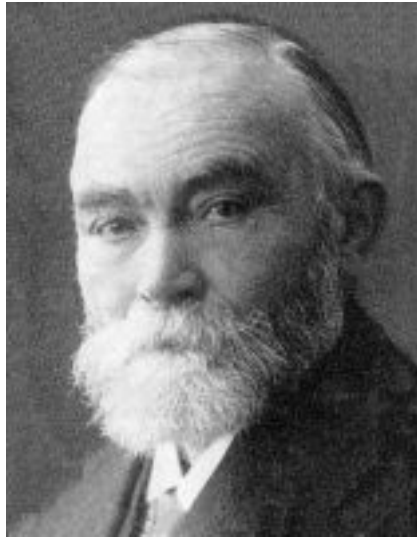

Kant (1724-1804)

The Difference Engine

Boole (1815-1864)

Frege (1848-1925)

Russell (1872-1970)

Boole publishes "An Investigation of the Laws of Thought, on Which are Founded the Mathematical Theories of Logic and Probabilities", which develops what is known today as Boolean Algebra, a subfield of discrete mathematics and the formal theory behind the logic gates used in modern computers, in 1854.
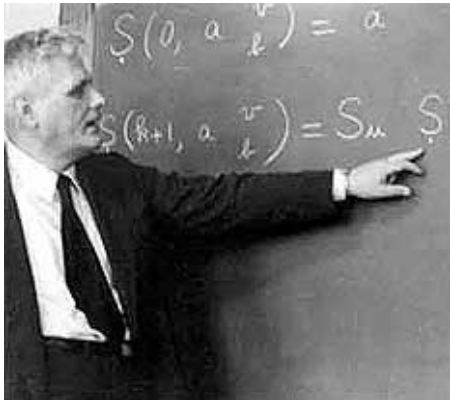

Hilbert (1862-1943)

Wittgenstein (1889-1951)

The Linguistic Turn
"What can we *say* about the fundamental nature of reality and what we can know about it?"

Church (1903-1995)

Tarski (1901-1983)
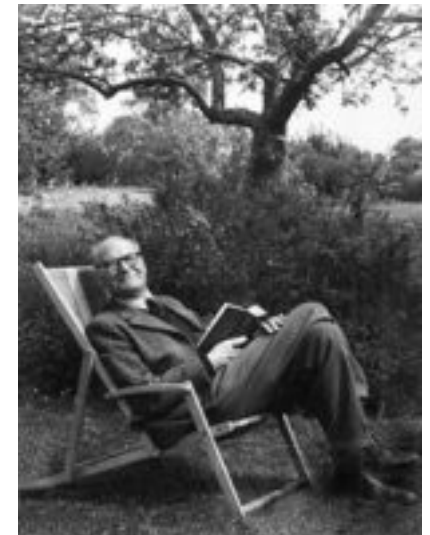
Broad (1887-1971)

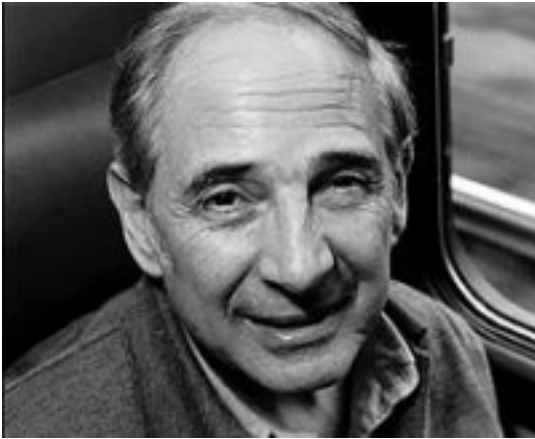Turing (1912-1954)

von Nuemann (1903-1957)

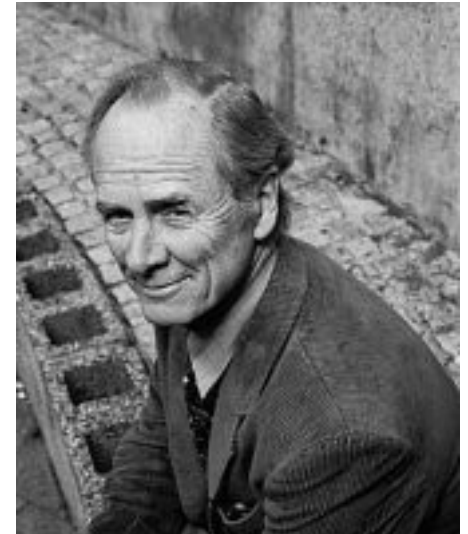Gödel (1906-1978)

Ryle (1900-1976)

Contemporary

Searle

Nagel

Dennett

Churchland

Putnam

Armstrong

Kripke

Dretske